

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 TRSE-00 EB-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /169 W

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R 171620Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4857

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 2057

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MILI, MT

SUBJ: PIONEER CORPS PREFERENCES AND APPOINTMENTS

REF: USDAO VALLETTA 270736Z AUG 73 (NOTAL)

1. SPEAKING ON AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACT, WHICH INTER ALIA, WILL GIVE PIONEER CORPS MEMBERS EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE AND ABOLISH PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, LABORMIN CASSAR CLAIMED THAT 3,401 NEW JOBS HAD BEEN CREATED BY GOM, WHICH COMPARED FAVORABLY WITH 10,000 CREATED BY NATIONALISTS DURING NINE YEARS, AND THAT PIONEERS ARE ENVIED BECAUSE OF THEIR GOOD PAY AND WORK CONDITIONS.

2. CASSAR SAID NINETY PERCENT OF PIONEER CORPS (EST. AT 4,300) HAD BEEN VICTIMIZED BY NATIONALISTS AND NOT GIVEN WORK. REGISTRATION OPEN TO ALL, AND
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THOSE WHO DID NOT ENROLL HAD HEEDED THE "VICIOUS OPPOSITION PROPAGANDA" AGAINST CORPS.

3. GOING FURTHER, CASSAR CLAIMED THAT NINETY PER CENT OF CORPS ARE LABOR SUPPORTERS, AND THEREFORE ONLY FAIR THAT NINETY PERCENT OF NEW NCOS ARE LABORITES. A NUMBER OF NCOS ARE NATIONALISTS AND HE HAD HAD COMPLAINTS ABOUT THIS. GOM HAD HAD 350 OFFICER CANDIDATES AND CABINET HAD SELECTED 36 QUALIFIED APPLICATS, THE MAJORITY BEING LABOR SUPPORTERS. IF THERE HAD NOT BEEN ENOUGH QUALIFIED LABORITES, NATCONAGISTS WOULD HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.

4. OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN, FENECH ADAMI, SAID UNEMPLOYED WERE VICTIMS OF DISASTROUS INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER POLICIES OF GOM. NO NEW INDUSTRIES OF NOTE HAD BEEN ATTRACTED TO MALTA, AND NEW JOBS CREATED WERE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY THE RESULT OF EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES BROUGHT IN BY NATS (LARGELY TRUE). NGTM AS STILL HOPING TO SET UP INDUSTRIES WITH CHINEES HELP. ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY LABOT CORPS AND THEN PIONEER CORPS WAS PROOF OF GOM FAILURE. HE THOUGHT CABINET SHOULD HAVE MORE TO DO THAN SPEND ITS TIME SELECTING MILITARY OFFICERS.

5. COMMENT: CASSAR'S OPEN REVELATION OF GOM POLICY ON NCO AND OFFICER APPOINTMENTS TO ARMED FORCES

MALTA CONFIRMES BROAD SPECULATION THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN GOVERNING SUCH DECISIONS. MINTOFF HAS LONG CONSIDERED MILITARY AND POLICE NATIONALIST HOTBEDS, AND IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT HE IS DOING A LITTLE PADDING HIMSELF.

6. FENECH ADAMI'S GOOD PERFORMANCE ANOTHER INDICATION OF IMPROVED EFFECTIVENESS AND CONFIDENCE OF NATIONALIST OPPOSITION, PROBABLY RESULTING FROM GOOD TURNOUT AT THEIR SEPT 21 FESTIVITIES AND MINTOFF'S OVERT REACTION TO THEM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VALLET02057
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731026/aaaaasog.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USDAO VALLETTA 270736Z AUG 73 (NOTAL,)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <21-Nov-2001 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PIONEER CORPS PREFERENCES AND APPOINTMENTS
TAGS: PINT, MILI, MT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005